

Representative Town Meeting  
Town of Darien, CT

**RULES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 12, 2005**

8:15 p.m., Town Hall, Room 213

**Committee Attendance:** K. Armour, D. Maroney, S. Morton, H. Pegler, M. Pontius, B. Rayhill, V. Riccardo, G. Swenson, M. Thorne, J. Warren

**Absent:** R. Hoyt, V. Wenger

Ms. Armour called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. The primary purpose of the meeting was to set the agenda for the September 26, 2005 regular meeting of the RTM.

To begin, Ms. Armour asked the Committee to approve the minutes of the Committee's May 16, 2005 meeting. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the minutes were approved as written.

Turning to its agenda, the Committee, upon a motion duly made and seconded, then unanimously agreed to assign an appropriation of performance and payment bond monies paid to the Town relating to work at the new High School to the **F&B Committee**. These surety bond monies have already been spent to complete plumbing and HVAC work which the original contractor failed to complete under the terms of its contract.

The Committee, upon a motion duly made and seconded, unanimously agreed to assign an appropriation of \$2,100,000 for the design and construction of sewer extension projects to the **Public Works** (primary) and **F&B** (Secondary) Committees. The Town is likely to issue bonds or notes to meet this appropriation.

Ms. Armour noted that the Board of Selectmen has approved extending the term of the Supplemental Agreement to the Railroad Station Lease between the Town and the CT Department of Transportation by back-dating its commencement to 7/1/2004. The RTM approved the Supplemental Agreement at its 6/13/05 meeting. The Committee, upon a motion duly made and seconded, unanimously agreed to assign consideration of this change to the **TGS&A** (primary) and **F&B** (secondary) Committees.

The Committee, upon a motion duly made and seconded, unanimously agreed to assign consideration of a gift from the Darien Little League to build a scorer's hut at McGuane Field's Challenger Field to the **Parks & Rec** (primary) and **F&B** Committees. Mr. Morton was concerned that a specific dollar amount has not been established for the gift, although it is expected to exceed the maximum gift amount that the Board of Selectmen may accept absent action by the RTM (\$10,000).

Mr. Warren then reported that the TGS&A Committee is prepared to present proposed changes to the Town Charter relating to purchasing practices to the RTM at its 9/26/05 meeting. The matter had also been assigned to the F&B Committee. Mr. Warren continued that Code changes relating to certain Town pension plans remain unready for presentation to the RTM, but that he will be meeting with the Town's Counsel and Administrator to develop a plan to address the outstanding issues.

Mr. Warren also reported that the survey of the shellfish beds had been completed, but that the Board of Selectmen is not yet ready to commit to proposing an ordinance regarding recreational shellfishing. Hence, this matter will not be ready for consideration and action by the RTM at its 9/26/05 meeting.

The Committee then discussed the status of the drafting of an ad hoc charge relating to a review of best practices for Town Hall finance functions. It was agreed that an update and request for applicants to serve

on an ad hoc review committee should be presented to the RTM during the Announcements portion of the 9/26/05 RTM meeting.

Mr. Warren reported that a draft noise ordinance has been presented to the Board of Selectmen and that the Beautification Commission has asked the TGS&A Committee to consider an ordinance regulating newspaper boxes.

Ms. Armour noted that there is another task for the TGS&A Committee. Earlier in the evening she had presented Mr. Warren with a large binder containing a draft re-codification of the Town's Code of Ordinances. At this juncture, the Committee, upon a motion duly made and seconded, unanimously agreed to assign reviewing that draft to the TGS&A Committee.

The Committee, upon a motion duly made and seconded, then unanimously agreed to set the agenda for the RTM's 9/26/05 meeting as follows:

1. Announcements, including an update on the ad hoc Town Hall financial practices charge.
2. The Sewer Appropriation (Public Works and F&B)
3. The High School Surety Bond appropriation (F&B)
4. Proposed Code changes relating to purchasing practices (TGS&A and F&B)\*
5. Acceptance of a gift from the Darien Little League to build a scorer's hut at the Challenger Field (Parks & Rec and F&B)
6. Amendment to the Supplemental Railroad Lease Agreement (TGS&A and F&B)

Ms. Armour then reported about ballot vacancies for the six RTM districts for the upcoming November election. During the ensuing discussion, Mr. Thorne commented that the RTM and certain of its Standing Committees may not offer satisfactory experiences to certain members, particularly those who are new to the RTM. The Committee considered whether it may be appropriate to merge the Public Safety and H&SS Committees to increase the resulting committee's areas of interest and expertise. It was further noted that reducing the number of Standing Committees could improve the likelihood that interested RTM members could be assigned to the most active Committees, such as Education and F&B.

The Committee, upon motion duly made and seconded, then unanimously agreed to add an announcement about these discussions to the Announcements portion of the 9/26/05 RTM meeting, and to assign drafting an appropriate ordinance to the **TGS&A** Committee.

The Committee then unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Riccardo, Clerk